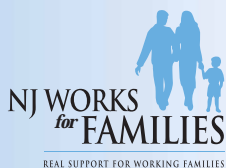


Support for Working Families



Supporting a family can be a real challenge, and getting a job is just the beginning. In order to keep a job, you may need reliable and affordable child care, transportation, health insurance and more. We at Work First New Jersey understand this, and are pleased to offer a package of services designed just for working families.

1 Transitional Support Services are available for those who are working, and have recently closed their case with Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (WFNJ/TANF), or have agreed to do so.

2 NJ Works For Families are services available to low and moderate-income families whether or not you've ever been on welfare.

You are working hard to build a better life and we want to help you succeed. So read on to learn more about the programs and services that may be available to help you.

*Si usted desea esta información
en español, por favor llame gratis
al 1-877-951-9514*





Here is a listing of helpful toll-free and other phone numbers, including those found in this brochure:

Medicaid Hotline
1-800-356-1561

NJ Child Support
1-877-NJKIDS1 (1-877-655-4371)

Transitional Child Care
1-800-332-9227

Food Stamp Hotline
1-800-792-9773 or 1-800-792-9774

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
1-800-510-3102

Family/Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-572-7233

Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS)
1-800-375-5283

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
1-800-TAX-1040 (1-800-829-1040)

NJ Division of Taxation
609-292-6400

NJ FamilyCare
1-800-701-0710

New Jersey Cares for Kids
1-800-332-9227

Kinship Navigator
(Assistance for adults who are raising relatives' children
in their own homes)
1-877-816-3211

*If you have questions about benefits that you may be eligible
for now that you are working, call the Office of Transitional
Support Services toll-free at: 1-877-951-9514.*

These are time-limited supports for families leaving Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

If you are working, and have recently closed your case with Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (WFNJ/TANF), or agree to close it, you may be eligible for the following time-limited support services. These can help you stay employed and move closer to an independent life.

SUPPLEMENTAL WORK SUPPORT

An additional 24 months of support

If you are now employed and have been working at least 20 hours per week for at least the past four months, and still receive a partial cash grant, you may be eligible to receive \$200 per month for up to 24 months. To be eligible, you must have been on WFNJ/TANF for at least six months and agree to voluntarily close your case. Doing so brings the added benefit of "stopping the clock" on your five-year lifetime limit on welfare benefits. This program is designed to support you in your efforts to stay employed and stay off welfare. *For more information, contact your County Board of Social Services or welfare agency.*

REMEMBER:

Families who want to take advantage of Supplemental Work Support must agree to close their welfare cases. Doing so brings the added benefit of "stopping the clock" on your five-year lifetime limit on welfare benefits.

TRANSPORTATION

Free or half-price bus or train passes

You may be able to get assistance with travel costs when you begin to work. If you take public transportation, you may receive a one-time free monthly bus or train pass from NJ TRANSIT. You may also be eligible for an additional six months of bus or train passes: the first three months are free and you pay only one-half the cost for the second three months. *For more information, contact your County Board of Social Services or welfare agency.*

CAREER ADVANCEMENT VOUCHERS

For classes and training to further your career

This program is for people who have left welfare in the last 24 months and have been working for at least the past four months. If you are interested in taking work-related classes or training, this program offers opportunities to advance your career. Work First New Jersey can help pay for classes or training for your current job or a new job, with training or education vouchers provided to an approved vendor worth up to \$4,000. *To find out if you qualify and how to apply, contact your County Board of Social Services or welfare agency.*



Work First New Jersey provides transitional supports that extend your child care and health care benefits by 24 months. At the end of that time, if you still need support in these areas, you may be eligible for the programs shown on the opposite page: NJ FamilyCare and New Jersey Cares for Kids (NJCK).

If you have children under the age of 18, and you are working, your family may be eligible for a 24-month extension of your Medicaid health benefits. As your income changes, so will your Medicaid eligibility. Exactly when the two-year period begins, depends on the amount you are earning. If your new job already provides health benefits, you will use those first, then your Medicaid benefits, if needed, to pay for health care costs. *Call the Medicaid Hotline toll-free at 1-800-356-1561 for more information.*

You may need to find child care so that you can work. If you participated in Work First New Jersey, you may be eligible for extended child care benefits for up to 24 months after you leave welfare. Once you are earning an income, you must pay a small part of the cost of child care (a "co-pay" or fee). The amount of your co-pay changes as your income changes.

You may apply for transitional child care if your child is younger than 13 years old. Even if your case was closed for reasons other than employment and you are now working, you may be eligible. Let your caseworker know that you have a job, and bring your pay stub to show how much money you earn. Your caseworker will give you a referral to an agency in your county that will help you find child care. You may also wish to call that agency on your own. *Call 1-800-332-9227 toll-free for more information.*

NJ Works For Families provides services for all income-eligible or qualified working families.

NJ FAMILYCARE

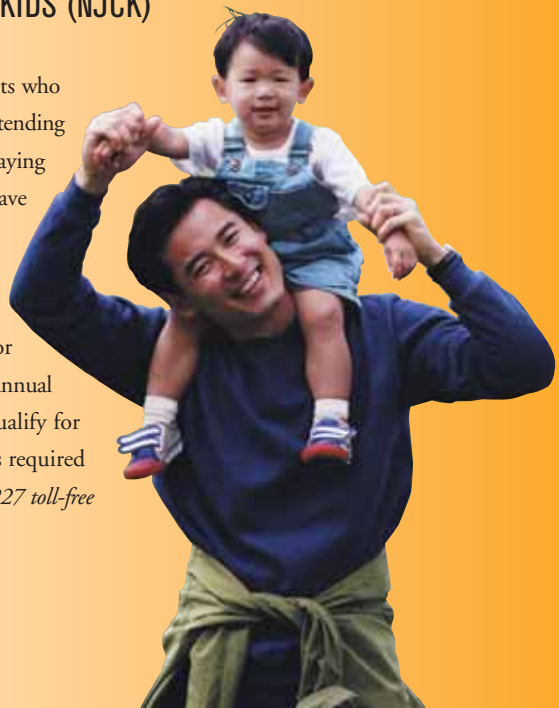
Free or low-cost health insurance

Your children may be able to get free or low-cost health insurance based on family size and monthly income. The NJ FamilyCare program covers children under the age of 19 who have no insurance. For example, a child who lives in a family of four with an annual income of up to \$65,000 or more would qualify. *Ask your caseworker for information, visit the website at www.njfamilycare.org or call the NJ FamilyCare hotline toll-free at 1-800-701-0710.*

NEW JERSEY CARES FOR KIDS (NJCK)

Low-cost child care

Low- and moderate-income parents who work or are in school full-time or attending a training program, may get help paying for their child care. Parents must have a child or children under age 13 (or under age 19 if your child has special needs), and meet family income eligibility requirements. For example, a family of four with an annual income of about \$36,000 would qualify for this child care subsidy. A co-pay is required for this service. *Call 1-800-332-9227 toll-free for more information.*



Services for all income-eligible or qualified working families (cont'd)

FOOD STAMPS

Help providing your family with food

Providing food for a growing family can be one of your greatest expenses. But you may be able to receive Food Stamps to help pay for the food your family needs. Remember, while the Food Stamp program is separate from cash assistance, your County Board of Social Services or welfare agency will determine whether you qualify for food stamp benefits. *For more information, call the toll-free Food Stamp Hotline at 1-800-792-9773 or 1-800-792-9774.*

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Help paying your heating bills

If you need help paying your heating bills, or if your heat is included in your rent, you may be eligible for LIHEAP. You also may be eligible for assistance in meeting the costs of medically necessary cooling, such as air conditioning. *For more information, call toll-free 1-800-510-3102.*

Note: *You can apply for LIHEAP at the same time you are applying for food stamps. Be sure to ask about this program if you need assistance with your heating or cooling bills.*

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

Reducing your federal and state taxes

The EITC is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes. It reduces the amount of taxes you pay. If you qualify for the EITC and file a federal income tax return, you can get back some or all of the federal income tax that was taken out of your pay during the year. Families who are eligible for the federal EITC and earn less than \$20,000 per year also may qualify for additional tax refunds under the New Jersey State EITC. *For more information, call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) toll-free at 1-800-TAX-1040, or contact the NJ Division of Taxation at 609-292-6400.*



These services are available to all working families.

CHILD SUPPORT

Additional income for your family

Child support services help parents meet their children's needs. These services include: finding the non-custodial parent, establishing paternity, getting a support order, collecting and distributing child support payments, enforcing unpaid child and medical support and child care, reviewing/recommending changes to your support order, and working through the court system to resolve disagreements. These services are provided through your County Board of Social Services, Probation Division, or Family Case Management Offices. *For more information about child support, visit the website at www.njchildsupport.org or call toll-free 1-877-NJKIDS1 (1-877-655-4371).*





New Jersey Department of Human Services

James E. McGreevey, Governor

James M. Davy, Commissioner